GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2532
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004
SHIFTING OF CMFRI
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government has decided to shift the location of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute(CMFRI) at Vizhingam to Mandapam in Tamil Nadu;

(b)if so, the reasons therefor;

(c)whether aquarium at Vizhingam, part of CMFRI was also to be shifted;

(d)if so, whether the Government was aware of the fact that there was wide spread resentment against these decisions; and

(e)if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a)The decision taken earlier to shift Vizhinjam Research Centre, is under review.

(b)While considering the X Five Year Plan proposal of the Plan scheme of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute on 20th June, 2003, on the recommendations of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) it had been decided to relocate/merge six Research Centres with other existing Regional/Research Centres under CMFRI, including Research Centre at Vizhinjam to be merged with and shifted to Mandapam Regional Centre.

The reasons behind this decision were, inter-alia achievement of the research objectives of the Centre established in 1951 with regard to marine fish resources and stock assessment, molluscan and lobster culture and ornamental fish breeding; the present need for diversification of research activities needing upgraded facilities and critical scientific mass at a few Centres for achieving competitive edge at global level; proposal of establishing a national facility for upstream research in mariculture at Mandapam; constraints of operations with rented building and inadequate seawater facilities; presence of the Headquarters of CMFRI at Kochi as well as the Research Centre of the Institute at Kozhikode in the State of Kerala, thus adequately addressing the research needs of marine fisheries in the State.

(c)A decision was taken earlier to shift the Aquarium, which is a part of the Centre, but the matter is under review.

(d) & (e):For ensuring further indepth analysis towards a pragmatic decision, it has been decided to continue the Centre including the Aquarium on the existing basis till a final decision is taken.